



Afternoon Alert - Monday, May 7, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TBS gave top play to the forecast for heavy rain in the Kanto region starting this evening. Other networks led with reports that Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels earned his third win on Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL

GOJ plans to hold Japan-DPRK summit by year's end

Fuji TV reported at noon that the GOJ has decided to begin making arrangements to hold a Japan-DPRK summit by the end of this year, saying that although the GOJ's policy to maintain pressure on the North until it takes concrete steps toward denuclearization remains unchanged, it has decided that resolving the abduction issue requires direct dialogue. The network added that the GOJ is expected to begin making arrangements after assessing the outcome of the U.S.-DPRK summit.

A senior GOJ official was quoted as saying: "Kim Jong Un understands what Japan wants. On the other hand, what North Korea wants is economic assistance from Japan. There is a good chance that a Japan-DPRK summit will be held this year." The network said the GOJ is already laying the groundwork for a Japan-DPRK summit, explaining that in addition to asking China and South Korea for their cooperation in resolving the abduction issue at the trilateral summit slated for Wednesday, Japan is also asking for Russia's cooperation behind the scenes.

- [Gist of Abe-Xi teleconference, May 4](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe, Xi agree to cooperate in addressing North Korea nuclear issue](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Xi turns to Abe to keep a role in Korea talks](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [China's President Xi may visit Japan in June 2019, diplomatic sources say](#) (The

Japan Times)

- [Japan, China to skirt mentioning Senkakus in communication mechanism](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, China to set up public-private consultative body for One Belt, One Road](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan, China, S. Korea finance chiefs welcome Panmunjom Declaration](#) (The Japan News)
- [Diet members' delegation meets with former Chinese FM Tang](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan, Finland defense chiefs agree to cooperate in dealing with North Korea issues](#) (Nikkei)
- [Russia rejects Japan proposal on airport modernization in Far East](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Vietnam to cooperate for early effectuation of TPP 11](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Kishida meets with Indian foreign minister in New Delhi](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Trump to raise abduction issue to N. Korea, U.S. reassures Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Minister in charge of the abduction issue, Katsunobu Kato, presses North Korea to resolve the matter](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Yokota, Iizuka meet parents of Warmbier](#) (NHK World)
- [Editorials: Japan must be persistent to solve abduction issue with N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, Israel PMs hold talks on Mideast peace, cybersecurity](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Japan's interests served by building peace, stability in the Middle East](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan looks to team up with island nations on Indo-Pacific strategy](#) (The Japan Times)

ECONOMY

- [Japan stepping up aid to ADB, drawing distinction from AIIB](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Asian companies drive rapid growth in global R&D budgets](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [China urges ADB to back Belt and Road Initiative, AIIB](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's Aso promotes "quality" infrastructure investment to ADB](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, China to start yen for yuan deal talks](#) (The Japan News)
- [JBIC proposes Japan-China consortium for Thai railway project](#) (The Japan Times)
- [U.S. trade deficit with Japan grows 16.0% in March](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan fleshes out crypto market rules to prevent Coincheck 2.0](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [70% of companies disapprove of U.S. trade policies, Sankei poll of 126 major companies](#) (Sankei)
- [90% say Japanese economy is on "expansionary trend," Sankei poll of 126 major companies](#) (Sankei)
- [Place your bets: Local governments in Japan weigh the benefits of applying for a casino license](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Fukuoka pitches itself as Japan's 'startup city'](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 1 – 2, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on May 2 – 3, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 4, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on May 5, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [2 parties reunite but unlikely to become largest opposition force](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ruling, opposition parties to clash in Diet; Abe's reelection as LDP chief in the balance](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Politicians vying to succeed Abe step up efforts to raise their profiles](#) (Yomiuri)
- [80 LDP lawmakers unaffiliated with any faction, constituting LDP's second-largest group](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [48% say Constitution should be left unchanged, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Public split over stipulating SDF in war-renouncing Constitution, Mainichi poll](#) (The Mainichi)
- [58% oppose constitutional revisions with Abe in charge, Asahi poll](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

EDUCATION

- [Ashinaga fund launches nonrepayable grant system to help Japan's needy students make ends meet](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

Blue Planet – Part 1: Surviving the "blue desert"

Sunday's "NHK Special" aired the first part of a new series focusing on marine life. The program said the ocean has been referred to as a "blue desert" because of its lack of nutrients, showing spectacular footage of dolphins, rays, sharks, whales, and killer whales in search of food such as sardines and plankton.

- [No. of children in Japan falls for 37th year to new record low](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Supporters, opponents hold rallies over constitutional amendment](#) (Kyodo News)

AMBASSADOR

- [U.S. Ambassador Hagerty: "Calligraphy is similar to diplomacy"](#) (Sankei)

SECURITY

- [F-22 technology offered to Japan for next-generation fighter](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's planned SDF dispatch to Futenma amid copter mishaps hits snag](#) (Kyodo News)
- [SDF may get ability to fight back against cyber-attacks](#) (The Japan News)
- [JCG adds second satellite channel for monitoring Senkakus](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Pacifist Article 9 should remain foundation of security policy](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

President Trump satisfied with aides' explanations on FRF initiative

Sunday's Okinawa Times reported from Washington on the disclosure by several USG sources that President Trump was briefed by his Chief of Staff Kelly and other aides on the FRF construction project off Camp Schwab on the eve of his Mar-a-Lago summit with Prime Minister Abe on April 17-18. According to a White House source, the President asked them about the financial cost of basing U.S. troops in Japan. In response to Kelly's explanation that the FRF plan serves U.S. interests since almost all of the cost is being paid by the Japanese, the President reportedly said: "This is a very good deal." The same White House source noted that President Trump has been critical that Japan and South Korea have only paid a portion of defense costs. The paper conjectured that the U.S. leader probably asked about the FRF project since the post-summit joint statement was set to include a phrase reaffirming the two leaders' commitment to moving forward with the realignment plan in the belief that it is the "only solution" that avoids the continued use of MCAS Futenma.

- [U.S. military refuses to host SDF inspectors](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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